Applicants: Yousuke TAKAHAMA et al.

Appl. No.: 09/889,321

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently amended) A method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA and/or its expression product comprising:

providing an a fetal immature T lymphocyte transfected with the foreign DNA;

irradiating a host mammal in order to transiently suppress T lymphocytes; and

introducing the transfected fetal immature T lymphocyte into thymus of the host mammal wherein existing T lymphocytes are suppressed;

and subsequently expressing said foreign DNA in thymus during differentiation and maturation of the <u>fetal</u> immature T lymphocyte in the thymus to reconstitute the immune system.

2. (Currently amended) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 1, comprising:

providing an a fetal immature T lymphocyte transfected with the foreign DNA;

irradiating a host mammal in order to transiently suppress T lymphocytes; and
introducing the transfected fetal immature T lymphocyte into thymus of the host

mammal, and subsequently expressing said foreign DNA in thymus organ during differentiation
and maturation of the fetal immature T lymphocyte.

3. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 1, wherein the foreign DNA comprises at least a gene encoding a substance causing allergic diseases or a substance causing auto-immune diseases.

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4. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA

and/or its expression product according to Claim 1, wherein the foreign DNA comprises at least a

gene encoding a peptide used for therapeutic medicament.

5. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA

and/or its expression product according to Claim 1, wherein the foreign DNA comprises at least a

gene and a vector.

6. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA

and/or its expression product according to Claim 5, wherein the vector is a viral vector for

transferring a foreign gene.

7. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA

and/or its expression product according to Claim 6, wherein the viral vector is a vector derived

from retrovirus, adenovirus, or lentivirus.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product characterized in that the foreign DNA is transferred into

thymus mediated by fetal T lymphocytes.

14. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 13, characterized in that a foreign-DNA-

transferred fetal T lymphocyte is introduced into thymus and said foreign DNA is expressed in

thymus organ.

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15. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 13, characterized in that the foreign DNA

is DNA which at least comprises a vector.

16. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 15 characterized in that the vector is a

viral vector for transferring a foreign gene.

17. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 16 characterized in that the viral vector is

a vector derived from retrovirus, adenovirus, or lentivirus.

18. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 13, characterized in that the non-human

animal belongs to rodents.

19. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 18 characterized in that the non-human

animal which belongs to rodents is a mouse.

20. (Canceled)

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